

Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 079068

R 061103Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4863

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 1803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CB, VS

SUBJECT: KOH KONG PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP

1. EMBOFF VISITED KOH KONG PRISONER-OF-WAR (POW) CAMP ON FEBRUARY 1 WITH FANK DIRECTOR OF MILITARY JUSTICE BG SAM KIM CHHUN, FANK G-2 COL. KIM ENG KOUROUDETH, AND CAMP COMMANDER MAJ.(SOL RODEN. MAP-SUPPORTED INSTALLATION NOW READY TO RECEIVE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST POWS AND HAS RECEIVED SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL BY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) DELEGATE PREREZ. PEREZ, HOWEVER, HAS TOLD US THAT THE ICRC WILL PROBABLY BE OBLIGED TO TAKE A CRITICAL PUBLIC POSITION IF THE POWS ARE NOT MOVED TO THE CAMP BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. WE HAVE BEEN COUNSELLING PATIENCE WITH HIM FOR SOME MONTHS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME URGING THE GKR FINALLY TO PUT THE CAMP INTO OPERATION.

2. IN A MEETING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED OFFICIALS AND KOH KONG GOVERNOR COL. CHHANG KIM NGUON, EMBOFF REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDERLYING GKRUS DECISION TO ESTABLISH THE POW CAMP, AND URGED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER DELAYS.

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3. LATEST APPARENT SNAG IS KOH KONG GOVERNOR'S CLAIM THAT

HE DOES NOT POSSESS ADEQUATE SECURITY FORCES TO PROTECT THE
POW CAMP FROM THE KC/VC. WE ARE NOT PERSUADED BY THIS
ASSESSMENT AND, IN ANY EVENT, HAVE TOLD THE KHMER WE
CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES WOULD
CONSIDER IT WORTH THE MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
COSTS TO TRSNT "LIBERATE" THE POWS, ESPECIALLY AT A TIME
WHEN THEIR MAIN EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD THE CITY OF
PHNOM PENH.

4. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING AMBIVALENCE AND FOOT-DRAGGING
WITHIN THE GKR ON THIS MATTER, I INTEND TO RAISE IT
WITH FOREIGN MINISER LONG BORET AND PRESIDENT
LON NOL AT AN APPROPRIATE EARLY OCCASION.
ENDERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, POW CAMPS, PRISON CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM01803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740252/aaaabwtk.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOH KONG PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CB, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005